

Remarks/Arguments:

Claim 1 is pending in the above-referenced patent application. Claim 1 stands rejected. In this response, Applicants have amended claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is presented for reconsideration.

Claim 1 stands rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of co-pending Application No. 10/566327. Claim 1 is amended herein and is sufficiently different from claim 1 so that it does not invoke the doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting. Accordingly, withdrawal of the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Nakamura (U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0021264). Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. In particular, Applicants' invention, as recited by claim 1, includes a feature which is neither disclosed nor suggested by the art of record, namely:

... in the initializing periods of the plurality of sub-fields, performing one of all-cell initializing operation and selective initializing operation, wherein, the all-cell initializing operation causes initializing discharge by applying a slowly ascending voltage...to the scan electrodes of all discharge cells for displaying an image, and applying a slowly descending voltage...to the scan electrodes and, the selective initializing operation selectively causes initializing discharge only in the discharge cells subjected to sustaining discharge in the preceding sub-field by applying a slowly descending voltage from voltage V_q to voltage V_a to the scan electrodes...

... during the initializing period of initializing all cells...holding the data electrodes at positive voltage V_x ...when applying the slowly ascending voltage...to the scan electrodes....

This feature may be found, for example, in the originally filed application at page 8, lines 16-23 and page 12, lines 1-6. No new matter has been added.

Nakamura discloses a driving method for plasma display panels. According to the method, only one "priming discharge period" is executed for every two adjacent

sub-fields. See Nakamura paragraph 0055. As shown in FIG. 9 of Nakamura, a voltage is applied to the scan electrodes and is increased during a first portion of the priming discharge period and is decreased during a second portion of the priming discharge period. Also, throughout both the first and second portions of the priming discharge period, a constant voltage (ground) is applied to the data electrodes. See Nakamura FIG. 9 and paragraph 60.

Nakamura is different from the embodiment of Applicants' invention recited in claim 1 for the following reasons.

First, Nakamura does not disclose Applicants' "selective initialization operation" and Applicants' "all-cell initializing operation." As shown in FIG. 9 of Nakamura, an initializing voltage P_p is applied to the scan electrodes (W_{s1} , W_{s2} , W_{sn}) during the priming discharge period. The voltage P_p increases during a first portion of the period and then decreases during a second portion of the period. Nakamura is silent with respect to whether the priming discharge period is carried out for all cells or just for selected cells. Because Nakamura does not disclose that the priming discharge period is carried out for all cells or just for selected cells, Nakamura discloses neither of Applicants' "selective initialization operation" and Applicants' "all-cell initializing operation."

Even if Nakamura's second portion of the period wherein the voltage P_p is decreased is read as Applicants' "selective initialization operation," Nakamura does not disclose an "all-cell initializing operation," as required. If, on the other hand, Nakamura's entire priming discharge period is read as Applicants' "all-cell initializing operation," then Nakamura does not disclose a "selective initialization operation," as required. Accordingly, Nakamura does not disclose "the all-cell initializing operation causes initializing discharge by applying a slowly ascending voltage...to the scan electrodes of all discharge cells for displaying an image, and applying a slowly descending voltage...to the scan electrodes and, the selective initializing operation selectively causes initializing discharge only in the discharge cells subjected to sustaining discharge in the preceding sub-field by applying a slowly descending voltage from voltage V_q to voltage V_a to the scan electrodes," as required by claim 1.

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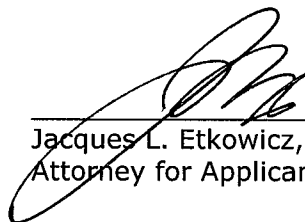
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Second, Nakamura does not disclose "during the initializing period of initializing all cells...holding the data electrodes at positive voltage V_x ...when applying the slowly ascending voltage...to the scan electrodes." As shown in FIG. 9 of Nakamura, the voltage of the data electrodes is always held at ground during the priming discharge period. Thus, in Nakamura, the voltage is not held at a positive voltage "when applying the slowly ascending voltage to the scan electrodes," as required by claim 1.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, claim 1 is patentable over the art of record.

In view of the amendments and arguments set forth above, the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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